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Senator Patterson's statement is as follows:

May 11, 2010, is a day that shall live in infamy. I introduced Senate Bill No. 1323. I knew it would be somewhat controversial, so I did not seek nor allow any co-sponsors. After all, the bill proposes the establishment of a central repository for information voluntarily submitted by reporters and would allow those meeting the criteria in the bill to be recognized as registered reporters. Nowhere does the bill speak to licensure or accreditation of reporters. Yet, even though the bill is on the Internet, in countless interviews with people alleging to be reporters and journalists, none of them—except those sitting at the front—have gotten it right.

All the stories, all the bloggers, all the journalists claim the bill as introduced proposes to license reporters and journalists, even though there seems to be no universal definition of either “reporter” or “journalist”. They’re certainly not synonymous. Obviously, none of these professionals read the bill; none listened while we had our interview; but rather they relied on what was reported erroneously over and over and over again. Amazing. Astonishing. But then we will all remember the old adage of never let the facts get in the way of a good story.

These “professionals” have chosen to not get it right, so how can we the people trust them to provide us with accurate information? How are the people to get meaningful, trustworthy information to elect its leaders on into the future. This has been quite a disturbing experience. I thought that there would be some effort to actually read and get informed. Is there any wonder that our constitutional republic is in such trouble?

The First Amendment spells out rights, but with rights come correlative and corresponding duties. Here the duties begin with those who comment on a

bill actually reading the bill. After all, their stock and trade is in words. Then comprehending the truth by going out and talking with others who have read the bill or perhaps even those who sponsored or co-sponsored the bill.

Finally, to factually and accurately comment on what is being debated. Boo. Hiss. This “legitimate” media prefers to lurk in the shadows. I would single out Ms. Jana Winter from Fox News, of all places, as being the worst perpetrator who has spread this false information across the entire landscape and refuses now to correct her error. I ask that my remarks be printed so that I can make sure she gets a copy.